

Springs in Fauquier. I am therefore all alone. From 9 A.M. to 4½ P.M. I spend at the Department, then come home and dine, and spend the evening alone when no friend comes in, or go to visit some one else. I believe I wrote you that I dined last week with Mr. Webster, (Mrs. W. having gone to New England) and afterwards with Genl Scott. The Genl has been exceedingly kind & civil, since my arrival, and today paid me the unusual honor, when he and his Officers now in the City, assembled to pay their respects to the new Head of the War Department, of marching them in a body, in full feather, to the Navy Department, to render a like tribute, to the other "fighting Secretary", as he expressed it. They were a noble looking set of men, and constitute the very flower of the conquerors of Mexico.

I am to dine with the President, in the White House, on Thursday of this week. He still spends the nights in Georgetown.

I have been endeavouring to think somewhat about home affairs, in view of your leaving. And think you should get some friend, Dr. Long or Mr. Kirkland, to sell my Buggy and Harness, and the Horses, Clay, & Crockett, & the grown steers at both plantations except the bull and four oxen. I wish also to sell the crop of wheat, but that may be deferred later. Your letters say nothing of the crops of corn, but if the drought has continued in N. C. as it has been here, I fear they are to be very short. If the Bacon I ordered from Petersburg has not been received, after using the wethers at the Estes place, and the old ewes at the Ray, you should kill some of the steers already mentioned.

After threshing out the wheat, I wish Hill and Alfred to put up the Stable at the Estes place, and after doing the work, laid off for them at home, I want the shed put up to the stable at the Ray place, for which the timbers were gotten last year.

Give directions to have all the fodder & tops saved, and the meadows cut about 1st. of Oct. . . .

Ask Mr. Kirkland to ascertain on what terms I can obtain the services of Garrett, or of Campbell, or some other suitable person to overlook and manage my affairs, generally, in my absence. I have thought if I could not get a suitable person in Orange to write to some friend in Caswell, to engage an overseer for me.

I regret that you are so desponding in regard to your health. Had I supposed it would be seriously endangered by a return to this climate, I would not have accepted, the distinction which the President thought proper to tender to the State in my person. If you feel sufficiently well, I think you had better come